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(b) identifying if cancerous cells are present in said sample from the quantitative result obtained in step (a).

22. A method for identifying the presence of cancerous cells in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 2;
and

(b) identifying if cancerous cells are present in said sample from the quantitative result obtained in step (a).

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23. A method for identifying the presence of cancerous cells in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 3;
and

(b) identifying if cancerous cells are present in said sample from the quantitative result obtained in step (a).

24. A method for identifying the presence of cancerous cells in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 4;
and

(b) identifying if cancerous cells are present in said sample from the quantitative result obtained in step (a).

25. A method for identifying the presence of cancerous cells in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 5;
and

(b) identifying if cancerous cells are present in said sample from the quantitative result obtained in step (a).

26. A method for identifying the presence of cancerous cells in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 6;
and

(b) identifying if cancerous cells are present in said sample from the quantitative result obtained in step (a).

27. A method for identifying the presence of cancerous cells in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 7;
and

(b) identifying if cancerous cells are present in said sample from the quantitative result obtained in step (a).

Remarks

The Invention

The present invention provides reagents and methods for quantitating hTERT mRNA which provide for more accurate estimates of telomerase activity and also are useful in the diagnosis of cancers. The present invention provides an accurate and reproducible measure of telomerase activity by selectively measuring mRNA that encodes an active hTERT protein.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected.